

O I P E
JUL 27 2001
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

4

PATENT
Docket No. 223002010004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "FIRST CLASS MAIL"

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on July 20 2001.

Laura Shires
Laura Shires

4/a
H9J
4/17/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

JUL 31 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/290

In the application of:

Michael HOUGHTON et al.

Serial No.: 09/884,455

Filing Date: June 18, 2001

For: HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: 1652

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination on the merits in the subject application, please enter the following preliminary amendment.

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

~~Please cancel claims 1-26.~~

Please add new claims 27-36.

a! 27. (New) A composition comprising a purified proteolytic hepatitis C virus (HCV) polypeptide wherein said HCV polypeptide comprises an HCV NS3 domain protease or an active HCV NS3 domain protease truncation analog.